

4B FROM PAGE 1B
MAY 11, 1986 SUNDAY JOURNAL-STAR

Posse

From page 1B

people specifically threaten an individual, if they say they are trying to fight an law enforcement, then we have a case. We have seen a rise in that the past year and a half to two years in Nebraska."

It's difficult to gauge the threat from extremist groups, Dumas said, because radicals do not sit in themselves justly in FBI investigations. "It's not illegal for anyone to stand up and speak his mind," he said. "That's the way it should be."

It's also hard to determine if a group operates as a cult than as a paramilitary camp. Other than the non-official Idaho activist camps, he said, the FBI has identified only one other Nebraska group showing signs of conducting paramilitary training.

Camps in Nebraska

Another four or five groups show some potential in that regard, Evans said. The State Patrol says it knows of five or six camps where members may train with automatic weapons. None of the camps has been linked with any particular organization.

State Patrol Capt. James Burnett said an increase in intelligence of radical group members has indicated more militancy on their part recently. Individuals who once just protested lanes now reportedly are stockpiling weapons, including automatic rifles, he said.

"We're hearing more about it," Burnett said. "I don't know if it's because we're more concerned about gathering information about these groups or if it's the activities of the groups themselves."

Over the years, law enforcement officers and FBI agents have had numerous confrontations — some deadly — with members of the posse.

One FBI report mentions an attempted assault of FBI agents in Nebraska by the son of a posse member in Mitchell in March 1980. News reports from that time state that Douglas Daggert, then 18, drew a shotgun on FBI agents who were attempting to recover property of his father. Ted Daggert reportedly drew his weapons and Ted Daggert grabbed the shotgun from his son and threw it to the ground, ending the confrontation.

In 1980, the IRS reported to the FBI that a state trooper was assaulted by posse members. The report doesn't include the date, location of the incident or the parties involved. Patrol officials say they don't recall such an assault and suggested the report was alluding to the incident in Mitchell involving IRS agents.

Most violent incident

The most violent incident occurred in February 1983 when posse member Gordon Kahl, 42, had a shootout with authorities in North Dakota. Two U.S. marshals were killed and a third seriously wounded. Kahl escaped, but died in a June 1983 shootout with police in Kansas. A local sheriff also died in that gun battle.

A series of bombings and attempted bombings in Portland, Ore., in 1980 were attributed to suspected posse members. In 1980, the FBI sent a memo to federal agencies, warning them of an alleged posse plot to lure federal agents to isolated places and murder them.

The FBI and IRS agree federal revenue agents may face the greatest risk of violence from radicals.

"We're always concerned when our agents go out that they might run into some of these people who tend to be violent," whether they're members of extremist groups or not, said Ed Dumas, IRS spokesman in Omaha.

Dumas said he's concerned about the recent escalation of violence against the posse advocated or when leaders or members are arrested for violations of the Internal Revenue Code or for local violations.

An FBI report dated March 21, 1980, states that an FBI agent investigated posse activities in Nebraska and contacted only two posse chapters were located in the state, one in Dawson County and the other in Scotts Bluff County. Members of both groups, started in western Nebraska in the mid- to late 1970s, totaled 14 to 20 members, most of whom were tax protesters, the agent said.

An IRS report to the FBI in 1980 indicated, however, that the posse's involvement in Nebraska was more widespread. Although providing no membership statistics, the IRS report said Nebraska and Colorado showed the most posse activity in the country.

The FBI characterizes the average posse member as a rural resident age 40 and older. The IRS at one time alleged the posse was composed of "construction workers, farmers and motorcycle gang members." The FBI later denied any connection between motorcycle gangs and the posse.

Many investigated

Over the years, the FBI has investigated posse groups in the Pacific Northwest, California, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa, Texas and Arkansas. FBI officials in other states also have reported posse activity.

FBI reports indicate the Tigerton, Wis., area where James Wickstrom, current national posse leader, has at times made his headquarters, long has played a prominent role in posse dealings.

Wickstrom played a prominent role in the recent murder trial of Idaho serial-killer Michael Ryan and his son Dennis, who were convicted of killing 1970s Group leader Michael Ryan and several other members had met Wickstrom and incorporated some of his radical and racist teachings into their daily lives.

with subsequent loans. The list includes those who have violent histories and those who previously have threatened IRS agents.

Unarmed agents are accompanied by an armed escort when they meet with such individuals or retrieve property from them in payment of back taxes, he said. Revenue agents have been urged to use caution when dealing with such people and to retreat at any sign of violence.

"There's no amount of money worth dying over," Dumas said.

He said the IRS is aware of posse members in Nebraska but isn't concerned about the organization itself. "It's a fractured group. It's not at this point in time, so far as we know, a consolidated effort."

The FBI began investigating the posse in 1974 a year after the group was founded by Sherry Lammert "Mick" Beach in Portland. The posse is an offshoot of the Identity Group, also known

SUMMERLIFE STYLES

Save on these clothes that fit you, fit your summer!
Prices good today through Sunday, May 18, 1986



ESP Stretch Twill Short
for Men and Women
Shorts that move when you do. Perfect for any recreational activity.
Size: sizes 30-42, colors navy, tan, lt. gray.
Hem: elastic 3/4" fly, colors khaki, navy and white.
Reg. 21.95
Now **\$16.99**



Cotton Sweaters
for Men and Women
Save on our entire stock of spring cotton sweaters!
Up to 1/3 off starting as low as **\$9.99**



Knit Shirts & Tops
for Men and Women
Stay cool and comfortable this summer in 100% cotton and cotton blend knit shirts.
Reg. 9.95-21.95
Now **\$4.99 - \$9.99**



Hawaiian Print Short
for Men and Women
Jean style short with elastic waist and drawcord, Hawaiian prints.
Size: sizes S-L.
Hem: elastic 3/4" fly.
Now **\$11.99**



Camp Shirts & Sport Shirts

Clipped By:



jerrwilliamsauthor
Tue, Jun 11, 2019